CLUSTER

ASSET PROFILE
Purpose - Data Sources - Methodology

Purpose

The asset profile summarizes significant data and information gathered during the Community Reinvestment Strategy (CRS) data collection process, which served as a foundation from which cluster board members and community stakeholders developed reinvestment recommendations. The profile describes and discusses: land use; regional issues; socioeconomic factors; neighborhood and commercial development opportunities and challenges; existing transportation resources and barriers; job centers; environmental issues; housing assets, needs and opportunities, youth development resources and concerns; quality of life issues; and unique elements of the cluster.

Data Sources and Methodology

CRS has used an extensive data and information collection process utilizing the services of the Michigan Metropolitan Information Center (MIMIC) as information manager and data provider. In addition to MIMIC, CRS relied upon information within the Detroit Master Plan of Policies (1990 - DMP) census information, Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) data, various city departments such as Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development, Housing, Police, and CRS core staff. While all of these sources maintain a wealth of data, gaps exist in information needed to inform, guide and support a responsible reinvestment decision making process. Therefore, CRS depended heavily upon community stakeholders' knowledge and understanding of strengths, opportunities, and challenges within their respective communities to enhance existing data and to support the collection of current data.

Additionally, CRS generated current condition data through surveys and information obtained directly from community stakeholders through a number of processes:

•**Building Conditions:** Cluster 8 data gatherers collected current condition information for residential and commercial areas. Residential (housing) information was collected and reported according to census block groups. Commercial (nonresidential) information was collected and reported using a block face approach (i.e. surveying and recording information for one side of a street at a time).

To ensure consistency, a standardized survey and process for data collection and analysis was designed and used throughout the entire city for both residential and commercial surveys. This standardization occurred through the collective effort of CRS

core staff and the five technical assistance teams serving as consultants to the various clusters. This was a unique process involving weekly meetings to reach consensus on the most efficient and effective data collection methods compatible with CRS mission and time frames.

•Community Forums: Residents were invited to attend neighborhood based forums to learn about and discuss CRS and offer their perspective about reinvestment in their communities.

•Focus Groups: Group sessions attended by cluster board members and stakeholders were held, concentrating on transportation, housing, youth development, neighborhood commercial facilities, job centers, and environment. Each of these sessions offered an opportunity for board members and stakeholders to use one of two methods to identify special issues within their communities.

1. Brainstorming which allowed participants to openly express their ideas about the specific topic of discussion.

2. Instrumental Group Interview (IGI) forms that included questions about the topic area. This ensured that information was captured, and allowed stakeholders to respond to the same questions. (See appendix for sample forms.)

•Neighborhood History and Quality of Life Interviews: Telephone interviews were conducted with cluster board members to gather information around quality of life issues, unique historical and current aspects of their neighborhoods, and any plans for community development projects.

•Cluster Bus Tours: Tours were carried out to acquaint board members with the geographic area constituting the entire cluster. This was important in broadening the perspective of cluster board members from a neighborhood view to a cluster wide-view.

•Institutional Windshield Survey: The Cluster 8 technical assistance team also completed an "institutional windshield survey." This street by street drive through, identified current data regarding existing churches, schools, health care providers, libraries, police and fire stations. (This listing is found in the appendix along with a map of schools, churches, libraries, police precincts and fire stations developed by Archive DS Architectural Firm.)